UNC SCHOOL OF NURSING

Statement of Purpose NURS 489
Practicum in Nursing: *Global Health Experience*

Since 1993 the School of Nursing has offered a required course in which students participate in a reflective experience that provides the context to integrate classroom and experiential learning into an evolving professional identity. Over the years a number of students have opted to complete course requirements through work in an international setting. NURS 489 *Practicum in Nursing: Global Health Experience* is specifically designed for students who have an interest in traveling abroad to learn about health systems and the nursing profession in other countries.

This program is offered to fourth year students in the undergraduate nursing curriculum as a component of the NURS 489 *Practicum in Nursing: Global Health Experience* course. The experience requires a minimum of 84 hours in a health care delivery setting or community education program with the supervision or mentoring by a professional nurse. The purpose of the experience is to provide the student with opportunities to:

1. reinforce content and skills introduced at the junior level;
2. gain experience in therapeutic relationships with patients and their families;
3. experience the health care delivery environment through realistic practice, including securing a practice opportunity and compliance with health & safety processes requisite to international travel;
4. develop the organizational skills necessary to provide care to a cluster of assigned patients or to develop community health education programs effectively;
5. improve communication skills through participation as a health care team member;
6. observe patient care management and program development opportunities to support course assignments in N489;
7. prepare the student for more advanced study.

Design of NURS 489 reflects the commitment of the School of Nursing to endeavors that support students in developing new knowledge and skills to provide quality care in global environments as well as to recent immigrants to the United States. Students who elect to meet course requirements in a global health setting are asked to secure a volunteer opportunity with a non-governmental organization or with a local health care agency.

It is recommended but not required that students be registered with the Nurse Aide Competency Evaluation Service (NACES) as a Nurse Aide I and with the State of North Carolina Board of Nursing as a Nurse Aide II. With this credential students may be employed or accepted as a volunteer at either level as appropriate. In order to make this experience a valuable one, students should be supervised and mentored by an experienced nurse.

Students will develop their own learning objectives in collaboration with the receiving healthcare institution keeping in mind that the primary objective of the course is to provide a comparative global nursing experience in which to reflect on their evolving professional identity.

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